

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMS-01 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09 SP-02 SS-15  
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
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INFO USMISSION USNATO  
USDOC WASHDC  
USDOE WASHDC

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USDOC FOR BEWT  
USDOE FOR STEVE GOLDMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ENRG, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET COAL MINISTER CLAIMS OUTPUT IS  
ABOVE PLAN

1. FOR MINER'S DAY ON AUGUST 27 PRAVDA FRONTPAGED A  
SHORT INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF THE COAL INDUSTRY  
BRATCHENKO. HE SAID THAT IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE  
TENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (1976--MID 1978) 1.8 BILLION TONS  
OF COAL AND 89 MILLION TONS OF SHALE HAD BEEN MINED,  
THUS PROVIDING MORE THAN 30 MILLION TONS OF FUEL ABOVE  
PLAN. HOWEVER, THIS YEAR COAL ENTERPRISES ARE ENCOUN-  
TERING GREAT STRAINS AND THE PLAN FOR COAL OUTPUT FOR  
SEVEN MONTHS WAS NOT FULFILLED.

2. WHAT'S NEEDED, HE SAID, IS FASTER CREATION OF  
LONG-WALL FACES, STAFFING UP OF MINING BRIGADES,  
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INCREASED TECHNICAL, LABOR AND PLANNING DISCIPLINE,  
AND, CHIEFLY, AN INCREASED SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY ON  
THE PART OF THE COLLECTIVES AND EACH MINER.

3. AFTER TICKING OFF SOME ACHIEVEMENTS IN OPENING  
MINES THUS FAR IN THE TENTH FYP, BRATCHENSKO SAYS THAT  
LARGE PROJECTS IN THE UKRAINE, AROUND MOSCOW, AND IN

KAZAKHSTAN AND THE BALTIC ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE  
END OF THIS YEAR. HE ALSO SAYS THAT MINING EFFICIENCY  
AND SAFETY DEPEND ON MODERNIZATION OF EQUIPMENT, AND  
THAT A LOT HAS BEEN DONE IN THIS AREA ALREADY.

4. COMMENT: BRATCHENKO'S FORMULAS FOR IMPROVED PER-  
FORMANCE ARE UNEXCEPTIONABLE; THE REAL QUESTION IS  
WHETHER THE GOALS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED GIVEN THE CURRENT  
AND PROSPECTIVE PACE OF CONSTRUCTION AND LONG-STANDING  
PROBLEMS WITH WORKER RESPONSIBILITY.

5. GIVEN THE FACT THAT COAL HAS COME IN BELOW PLAN FOR  
EACH OF THE PAST TWO YEARS AND IS BELOW PLAN FOR THE  
FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, BRATCHENKO'S CLAIM TO BE  
30 MILLION TONS ABOVE PLAN MUST REST ON THE INCLUSION  
OF SHALE, FOR WHICH WE SELDOM SEE SEPARATE GOALS OR  
PRODUCTION FIGURES. TOON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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